

**From:** Larry Ray Stewart [LStewart@uwyo.edu]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 31, 2005 11:22 AM

**To:** restructure.sizestandards@sba.gov

**Cc:** ewatson@wyoming.com

**Subject:** RIN 3245-ZA02

I am writing regarding the proposed changes to the SBIR rules regarding inclusion of VC participation and small business size standards.

As an involved and interested proponent and as an advocate of small business, I want to express my personal concern regarding changes to the playing field for small business and small manufacturers. With the continued movement offshore of major production for larger companies the trade deficit and opportunity already diminishes substantially on a yearly basis. The advantages that VC and corporate business offers have not and will not be ever made available to the small business and manufacturer. The last best hope of many small entrepreneurial concerns rests with the SBIR program

In the spirit of American ingenuity and passion and a legacy of players reaching fruition as successful small business owners and growing to major corporations, I am puzzled by this dramatic move to stifle that initiative by putting the very heart and soul of America in jeopardy to satisfy the growing appetite of successful companies and individuals to be even more successful at the risk of future free enterprise and development.

To the newly emerging inventor, to the child of promise who is just graduating for a high school or university, to the individual who has a great idea based on years of experience who has the passion to believe their product and/or service could make a difference, the SBIR program can now become the light of hope on the hill for them. Changing the program as proposed will dim that light forever because of the steep slope this will add to an already unlevel playing field. Changing the program in the manner suggested will simply create a class system in this country to an unparalleled degree. As we continue to watch the growing gap in this nation between the haves and the have nots we should be alarmed and alert to the implications of the proposals coming forward. I hope you will think of that as well as you journey to do "the right thing"

for America and for the ongoing generations of the people that grew a nation and kept it free.

*My very best,*

***Larry R. Stewart***

P.E.